



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 1 July 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
1 JULY 1968

1. France

Voting essentially against Communism and in favor of the status quo, Frenchmen yesterday gave De Gaulle a resounding victory and an absolute majority in the new National Assembly. The Gaullists and their Independent Republican allies won 355 seats out of 487; the Communists fell from 73 to 33.

With this massive Gaullist majority, the Assembly could become even more of a rubber stamp than before--De Gaulle certainly has the power now to make some changes in France. Whether he will or not is problematic. Some [redacted] 50X1

[redacted] fear the extent of his victory will send the General back to his tower of conservative self-satisfaction and the real problems may not be dealt with. 50X1

2. Uruguay

President Pacheco has ordered tight controls on wages and prices in an effort to rein in Uruguay's galloping inflation. Pacheco's decree, however, must get congressional approval and this is doubtful. Communist labor unions, already striking in protest over economic policies, have pledged themselves to sabotage any therapy Pacheco may try in order to meet International Monetary Fund recommendations.

3. Nonproliferation
Treaty

At least 45 nations should be on hand to sign the treaty today. Some 30 more signatures are expected by early August.

4. World Youth Festival

Orthodox Communists have a tiger by the tail in the Ninth World Youth Festival opening in Sofia, Bulgaria on 28 July. Student unrest, nationality conflicts, and ideological differences all promise to make this normally tame Soviet-sponsored show a considerably more interesting performance this year.

For example, the Italian delegation seems determined to hold a "Day of European Youth Revolt" despite an official veto. Czechoslovakia is sending a delegation of 400 even though there have been some pointed hints from Moscow that this might be a good year for the Czechs not to attend. The Somali delegation plans a tirade against Kenya and Ethiopia; the Moroccans and Tunisians are threatening a walk-out if any Israelis come.

If this is not enough to keep Festival officials awake at night, there is the prospect of Chinese-oriented delegations trying to take over the activities. There are even rumors that the Chinese themselves may attend.

And the official Festival slogan is "peace, friendship, and solidarity."

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No one views student turmoil with a more jaundiced eye than the conservative men in the Kremlin. Today, at Annex, we discuss their approach to the problem.

5. Czechoslovakia

Prague announced yesterday that the Warsaw Pact exercise was over. Soviet troops are still in Czechoslovakia,

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6. Haiti

The pall of fear that always hangs over Haiti has taken on darker tones as Duvalier proceeds with the trial of those captured after last month's abortive invasion. Names of government officials and businessmen are being mentioned in the courtroom as co-conspirators and no one is sure where Papa Doc's hand may fall next.

Now, as in past times of unusual tension, the rumors of impending coups are afloat in more than customary numbers.

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ANNEX

Moscow Turns Wary Eye On The New Left

The sort of ferment brewing for the World Youth Festival concerns the Kremlin. Student assaults on the political order in some West European countries have drawn apprehensive responses from Soviet leaders and have led them to take further measures to tighten discipline among Soviet youth.

Party Secretary Demichev, speaking to a social science conference on 19 June, lashed out at "revisionist ideologists" abroad who try to replace the class struggle in capitalist society with the struggle between generations and who proclaim young people to be the only true revolutionary force of our time.

A critique of the New Left doctrine of Herbert Marcuse had appeared earlier in Pravda. Correspondent Yury Zhukov hurled the epithet "werewolves" at Marcuse's followers, including the French radical student leader, Cohn-Bendit.

Such expressions display traditional Communist antipathy toward revolutionary movements not of the working class. The consequences of student agitation for Communist rule have been made plain to Soviet leaders by events in Eastern Europe. A Czechoslovak student proposal to create a student organization free of any ties with the Communist Party was sharply rebuked by a Soviet education official.

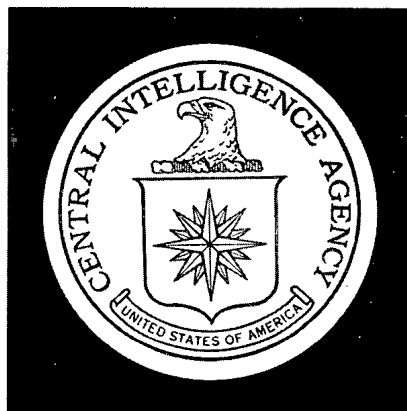
Even allowing for some overreaction on the part of a regime which tends to abhor the unconventional, Soviet leaders apparently judge that the ideological apathy and generational antagonisms of Soviet youth make the latter susceptible to the temptations of student radicalism in Europe. Youth and teacher conferences throughout the Soviet Union have made the younger generation the focal point of current efforts to shore up ideological defenses against the unorthodox concepts seeping in from the outside.

Such a program, however, instilling into youth "a purposeful, ordered system of views" as Demichev put it, represents the old authoritarian approach that has in the past worked to alienate students from party leadership both at home and abroad.

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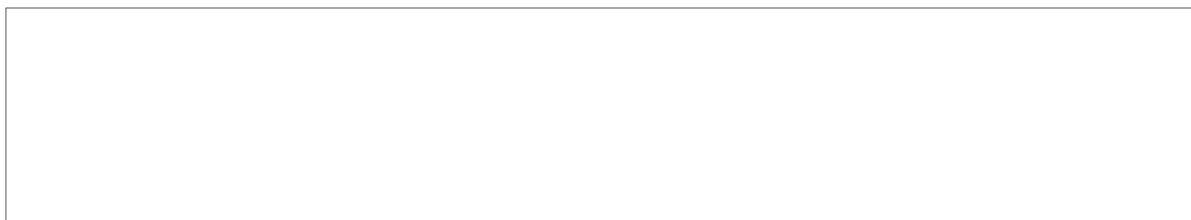
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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

May Shipping Report: In May, 52 foreign ships, the highest number of arrivals since March 1965, delivered a record volume of 221,000 tons of cargo. Bulk food imports of 96,500 tons surpassed the previous record volume by about 40 percent. [redacted]

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North Vietnamese Negotiations Delegates on Peace Talks: On 20 June two members of Hanoi's delegation to Paris talks [redacted] told [redacted] that in order to break the

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negotiations "stalemate" the Americans must cease unconditionally the bombing of the north. They said once the bombing has stopped the North Vietnamese were prepared to discuss any topic whatsoever.

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The officials went on to say that the subject of reunification of Vietnam was crucial to the North, but that the Americans steadfastly refused to enter into discussions on the matter. While Hanoi did not insist on a clear-cut timetable for reunification nor on immediate discussions on the means of effecting reunification, agreement on the principle that reunification will eventually take place was essential. Nevertheless, the North Vietnamese intended to remain in Paris and were convinced the Americans would also.

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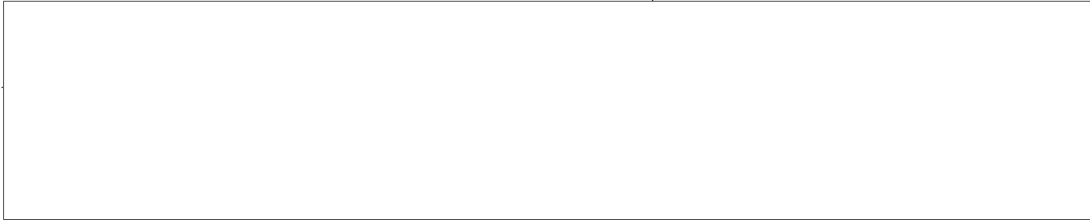
Le Duc Tho to Hanoi: Tho left Paris on Saturday and stopped over in Moscow where he saw Kosygin. He also will stop in Peking. His trip home was described as "routine" by a North Vietnamese spokesman in Paris. The spokesman added that Tho would soon return to Paris.

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